MUSICTALK, INC. LEARNING CONVERSATION APRIL 2006

DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of children served:

Dec 2005: 152 April 2006: 180

Ages:

Dec 2005: April 2006:

18mo – 28mo	4	5
3 year old	38	49
4 year old	65	76
5 year old	45	50

Gender:

Dec 2005: April 2006:

Boys	103	129
Girls	49	51

Ethnicity:

Dec 2005:

Caucasian	102	121
Afr/Am	11	11
Hispanic	20	24
Asian	10	13
Other	9	11

PARENT'S NOTES AND COMMENTS

Jason has gone from only using "b" consonants to saying his first official word right after Christmas vacation he started saying "apple". He knew what an apple was so we gave him one. He was so proud of himself he just laughed out loud. He has added a few more words and is starting to learn to put them together. This was a really big breakthrough for us and we can't help but feel using the music program (which he loves) at home and having the same program used as school has made a big difference.

Our son Alec is totally nonverbal, but he has started using the sign for "more" and "bye bye" with the songs used in the school program. We only hope he will at least learn more of the signs because he really loves to "sing".

Grant loves to sing "Skinamarink"! We even sang it in line at Target not too long ago.

Teacher Chris,

Thenk you for bringing music into the classroom every week. Your songs have allowed us to make great connections with our son at home, and I'm swe will continue to sing them over and over and over and over and ... well, you get the point!

Dustin: Beeky

you put it there!

Thank You Very Much

1 ove,

David /oung

Jump Start Graduate April 2006

CLASSROOM COMMENTS/ANECDOTES:

Owen and Jason help each other with hand movements to their favorite songs; "Butterfly" is the all time favorite. They sing together and "share" hand motions!

Brandon (new since Christmas) was very withdrawn and did nothing but cry until three weeks ago. He will now give me eye contact and join the circle by the end of circle time. He will also now wave good bye during the "Bye Bye" song.

Grant's attention span will usually make it through 2/3 of circle time. He does ask for his favorite song, "They Sang and They Danced All Day" by saying "yellow duck" and making a flapping motion with his arms!

Matthew (3 yr old) has a difficult time making any type of eye contact; he will eventually make eye contact if you hold his face in both of your hands and continue to speak to him. Once he does make eye contact with you, you are treated to a great big smile! Eye contact is the first step to communication.

Jaron is very special....he not only vocalizes <u>every</u> song, he demonstrates so much happiness in doing so. He doesn't really know that his noises are not actual words, but he enjoys and participates in every minute of music circle. According to mom and dad, he continues his "singing" at home on a regular basis.

Ginger Mitchell

Speech-Language Pathologist 23323 Western Ct, Auburn, Ca. 95602 (530) 268-9037

To Whom It May Concern:

Bobbie Brown has been providing Music Talk to children on my caseload for the past two years. Over this time, I have had the pleasure of watching her program reach children who have been diagnosed under the autism spectrum disorder umbrella. Bobbie's program has been an asset to our classroom curriculum, as she brings a level of music interaction that captures the attention and interest of all of our students at some point during her circle time.

We have two children this year that have shown growth in attention and participation skills that appear to be directly related to the interactions that Bobbie exposes them to. When these students first started in our program, it was very challenging to get them to sit during a circle time activity, let alone interact during structured activities. Bobbie has been diligent in creating activities that are multi-sensory in nature and provide our students with opportunities to interact with instruments and manipulatives that develop their rhythm and language skills. One student has begun to imitate a full sequence of hand movements while singing one of Bobbie's songs. We are able to gain this student's attention throughout the day by singing this song with him. Music Talk has increased his receptive, expressive and imitative skills. It has been exciting to see the growth in this child over the past two years.

We have another student who is considered to be low functioning. He is non-verbal and has very limited imitation skills. His emotional affect is also limited. Music Talk has become one of his favorite activities during the school day. This young man is showing anticipation skills during circle by smiling and laughing when a favorite song begins. His attention skills are significantly increased during music circles, as he will sit and watch Bobbie perform her activities throughout the entire circle. Various sounds are especially captivating for him and he responds to specific words and noises with screeches of pleasure.

The benefits of Music Talk can be seen in all of our students in the STEPS class, however these two young boys have shown some increased skills that appear to be directly related to the interactions that occur during Music Talk.

It has been a pleasure having Bobbie as part of our team in the STEPS program. The children continue to benefit from her program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ginger Mitchell, M.A., CCC-SLP

MUSICTALK, INC. UPDATES

- staff/board members participating in capacity building, sustainability workshop
- preliminary interviewing/looking for new facilitators
- working on finding organizations/foundations sharing the same values as MusicTalk
- grants in progress:

Starbucks California Giving Program \$50,000

• new funds received:

parental donation	\$1,500.00
private donation	1,000.00
Lions Club	500.00

ONGOING/CONTINUING

- parent meetings (every 4-6 weeks)
- take home packets (3 times yearly) (video, music c.d. song sheets, visuals)
- twice monthly facilitator meetings
- journals maintained by facilitators

SCHOOLS SITES NOW SERVED

Rock Creek/Bowman (Auburn, 4 classes)

Auburn Elementary (Auburn, 2 classes)

Carlin Coppin (Lincoln, 1 class)

Olive Ranch (Granite Bay, 5 classes)

Parker Whitney (Rocklin, 3 classes)

Heritage Oaks (Roseville, 2 classes)

Quail Hills (Roseville, 2 classes)

Rhukala (Roseville, 2 classes)

ZIP CODES BEING SERVED

95602	95678
95604	95681
95614	95713
95631	95722
95648	95747
95650	95763
95661	95765
95677	95843